

CAPTURE OF AN IMMATURE OAR-FISH,
REGALECUS GLESNE, IN THE GULF OF

MEXICO.—On February 26, 1955, a specimen of
oar-fish, *Regalecus glesne*, was found in the
net of a 100-foot shrimp trawl during exploratory
fishing operations aboard the M/V OREGON,
research vessel of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
The drag was made in 225 fathoms some 90 miles
south of Mobile, Alabama, at 29° 14' N., 87° 53' W.
While the oar-fish is not infrequently taken in
Australian and New Zealand waters, its capture in
the western Atlantic is rare; apparently the only
records are for a 17-foot specimen washed ashore at
Sage Bay, Bermuda, in 1860 (Goode and Bean,
U. S. Smith. Contr. to Knowl., 30: 480-1), and for
a 10-foot specimen stranded on the beach at Long
Island, Manatee County, Florida, on March 20, 1920
(Bull. 1920, COPELA, 86: 79-81).

The body surface was covered with a silvery
"mucous," which rubbed off at the slightest touch.
Traces of this substance now remain on the fish
(National Museum no. 164226).

The first five dorsal rays are greatly produced and
equal in diameter, with the first, fourth, and
fifth approximately twice as heavy as the second
and third. No bulbous tips were observed on any of
the rays. Minute black pigment spots are scattered
along the base of each ray, becoming more concentrated
in the terminal four millimeters. The remaining
dorsal rays, approximately 390 in number, become

more closely spaced posteriorly. Minute black pig-
ment spots mark the interspaces between each ray.

The pelvics are single rayed, with a low trans-
lucent "keel" along their posterior edges. This
structure is minutely produced and pigmented for
about one-third of the length from its insertion. At
two-thirds of its length from insertion this "keel"
forms an additional filament-like structure with a
heavily pigmented flap in the fork. In the terminal
portion the "keel" is produced once more into a
heavily pigmented flap giving the end of the ray a
bulbous appearance.

Numerous small clusters of black pigment spots,
pin-point in size, are irregularly spaced over the
body, and are more heavily concentrated on the
ventral surface. A cluster of these appears directly
over each eye, and they vary in size from minute
to about 0.3 millimeters in diameter.

Pertinent measurements in millimeters are as
follows: standard length, 179.5; total length, 222.5;
head, 14.7; greatest body depth (at first dorsal
insertion), 9.7; body depth at pelvic insertion, 9.2;
body depth at anus, 6.0; snout, 3.0; gape, 4.1;
horizontal diameter of eye, 3.4; pupil diameter, 1.0;
snout to mid-pupil, 5.0; snout to anus, 70.2; snout
to insertion pelvics, 16.0; mandible length, 5.1;
caudal (4 rays), the longest ray, 43.0; longest dorsal
ray, 53.0; length of pelvics, 58.0.—HARVEY R.
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and Wildlife Service, Pascagoula, Mississippi, and
Galveston, Texas.